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National Institute for Permanent  
Family Connectedness



## NIPFC Permanency Blast

### November 8th, 2017

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Warm Regards for the Holiday Season!

After completing the fall frenzy of training and conferences (shout out to the 2017 International Conference on Innovations in Family Engagement, in Colorado, and the National Permanency Conference, in Nashville), we wanted to take a few moments to reflect on significant legal, legislative, and procedural changes shaping the foster care world over the past few months; and forecast the release of revised and newly developing on-line trainings as well as the production of podcast material to look forward to in 2018.

We begin by including a legal settlement which upholds the rights for caregivers to be notified of hearings as required by law by Advokids against the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services. We also provide an All-County Letter (#17-65) produced by California Health and Human Services Agency Department of Social Services on 7-14-17, which references the passage of Senate Bill 1336. This letter describes the requirements (nationally established by the Fostering Connections Act of 2008) to identify, locate, and notify relatives and connections regarding the removal of their kin from their family, and adds the SB1136 requirement of the juvenile court to make findings at every dispositional hearing as to whether the social worker has exercised due diligence in identifying, locating, and notifying the child's relatives. The ACL goes on to reiterate and clarify the statutory requirements concerning the timeline and ongoing assessment of ALL relatives of a dependent child who request that the child be placed with them. Finally, we reference the article published in the Capital University Law Review, *How "Reasonable Efforts" Leads to Emotional & Legal Permanence*, authored by NIPFC's own Kelly Beck and Bob Friend. This article outlines how the intersection of judicial oversight and innovative child welfare practices can reduce the number of children coming into care and lengths of stay for those who do, while increasing the

prevalence of family networks to provide for safety, permanency, and well-being of children and youth.

Secondly, we highlight the passage of *AB 1006* into law, sponsored by Families Now. This bill is believed to be the nation's first statutory definition of the specialized permanency services shown to be so effective in achieving permanent families for children in foster care often considered "unadoptable."

We then share the announcement by Cleveland's Waiting Child Fund, who received a grant by Ohio Attorney General, Mike DeWine, to implement the 30 Days to Family program in 10 Ohio Counties severely impacted by the opioid epidemic. The Waiting Child Fund will be hiring 10 social work & supervisor positions for the grant, links included.

We also include the latest issue of California Child Welfare Co-Investment Partnership *insights Volume XIII, Summer 2017*, which focuses on substance use, screening, treatment, access, and prevention.

Furthermore, we have included recent news from the US Senate about child welfare legislative developments as well as a brief note about some upcoming releases from NIPFC.

Finally, we are in the process of updating our FREE on-line training, "Relatives Matter", which focuses on the child welfare requirements for Social Workers in California (BBS credits and Certificates of Completion are available). Additionally, Kelly Beck has begun the development of an on-line training for attorneys, who represent all parties, on similar subject material in which they can obtain MCLE credit. We also forecast the 2018 release of podcast material, conversations with Kevin Campbell, about the history and development of Family Finding and the current applications in Australia and Europe.

Happy reading, and many thanks for your input, feedback and partnership over the years.

### **CA: LADCFS, Foster Youth Advocates Reach Landmark Settlement; Statewide Implications Predicted**

*Advokids, October 24, 2017*

"On October 19, the Los Angeles Superior Court finalized a settlement in a milestone lawsuit filed by three former foster parents and Advokids, a Bay Area legal advocacy non-profit for California foster children. Filed in August 2014, the suit alleges that the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (LADCSF) regularly failed to provide foster parents and relative caregivers with written notices of court hearings concerning children in their care, as required by law. This includes written notice and an opportunity to object and be heard when foster children are removed from their homes."

[Read the full article](#)

#### **References:**

**ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 17-65**

*California Health and Human Services Agency Department of Social Services, July 14, 2017*

"The purpose of this All County Letter is to inform county child welfare departments of a new requirement placed on county juvenile courts by SB 1336 (Chapter 890, Statutes of 2016), and to reiterate to counties statutory requirements concerning the assessment of relatives of a dependent child who make a request that the child be placed with them."

[ACL #17-65](#)

### **How "Reasonable Efforts" Leads to Emotional and Legal Permanence**

*Kelly Beck and Bob Friend*

*The Capital University Law Review Volume 45 Issue 2, Spring 2017*

"This article intends to holistically review the opportunities and actions of the entire child welfare system in order to improve the experience and outcomes of the children and families it was intended to serve. More specifically, the authors will weave together the leadership and oversight provided by courts via reasonable efforts findings with the innovative practices that child welfare agencies, advocates, and partners can take in between hearings to advance and secure the safety, permanence, and wellbeing of the children, parents, family members, and communities they serve."

[How "Reasonable Efforts" Leads to Emotional and Legal Permanence](#)

### **California Governor Signs AB 1006 Into Law**

*Families NOW, October 2017*



It took Families NOW three years to do it, but California now has what we believe to be the nation's first statutory definition of the specialized permanency services shown to be so effective in achieving permanent families for children in foster care often considered "unadoptable."

AB 1006 is already having an impact as the California Department of Social Services and the California Association of Counties consider how to leverage the new law to improve permanency outcomes for the children who wait for families.

[Read the full announcement here](#)

[Read the full bill language here](#)

**The Waiting Child Fund team is growing.  
Can you help us find the right people?**



### Collaboration + Innovation + Heart

Cleveland's Waiting Child Fund, who received a grant by Ohio Attorney General, Mike DeWine, is implementing the [30 Days to Family](#) program in 10 Ohio Counties severely impacted by the opioid epidemic.

[Read the Article](#)

The Waiting Child Fund will be hiring 10 social work & supervisor positions for the grant; if interested, resumes should be sent to [amy@waitingchildfund.org](mailto:amy@waitingchildfund.org).

Take a look at other career opportunities including a Project Director opening at [Waiting Child Fund's Employment Page](#).

#### **A Matter of Substance: Challenges and Responses to Parental Substance Use in Child Welfare**

*California Child Welfare Co-Investment Partnership  
insights Volume XIII, Summer 2017*

"In this issue of insights, we present California's methods for capturing and reporting [substance use disorder (SUD)] related child welfare entries, as well as other sources that measure the impact of parental substance use in California and nationally. After discussing the potential number of families affected by substance use disorder, we look at how much the state's efforts to integrate child welfare services with behavioral health, the courts, and Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) programs have supported family reunification even in the face of an upward trend of SUD in some California counties. And finally, we discuss ways to keep moving forward with focused state efforts during a time of possible rollbacks on health care coverage and other social services."

[Read the full article](#)

#### **Recent Articles Revolving Around Wyden's Response to the Need of Improvement of Government Oversight of Foster Care**

*October 2017*

There has been some buzz in the news of the Child Welfare Oversight and Accountability Act of 2017. Here's what you might have missed this month:

[An Examination of Foster Care in the United States and the Use of Privatization](#)

*Committee on Finance United States Senate*

[Wyden and Hutch Push Bill to Make Foster Care System More Accountable](#)

*Kristian Foden-Vencil  
KUOW.org, Oct 17, 2017*

[Wyden Introduces Bipartisan Child Welfare Act to Improve Government Oversight of Foster Care](#)

*Ron Wyden Senator for Oregon, Oct 17, 2017*

[Franken Bill on Child Protection Passes Senate](#)

*Brannerd Dispatch, Oct 18, 2017*

[Hatch, Wyden Respond To Significant Need To Improve Government Oversight Following Foster Care Investigation](#)

*US Committee on Finance  
Public, Oct 17, 2017*

## New Year, New Premieres

*There's More from NIPFC Coming Your Way*

The NIPFC team has been working on a few projects, and we're almost done! We will be releasing interview segments with Kevin Campbell, an internationally known youth permanency expert and developer of the Family Finding model, about the history and development of Family Finding as well as their applications in Australia and Europe. There are also updates on our On-Line Trainings. "Relatives Matter", which is FREE, is getting an upgrade and we will be releasing a new training for attorneys with MCLE credits.

*Stay linked in 2018.*

**Send us suggestions for future blast topics!**

To view an archive of our previous Blasts, [Click Here!](#)  
[Sign Up and Receive NIPFC's Permanency Blast](#)

To join the mailing list for Kevin Campbell's sister Family Finding Newsletter, [Click Here!](#)

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